



News briefs

PX to relocate

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The Post Exchange will relocate next to the Special Forces Compound tomorrow at 11 a.m. to accommodate more soldiers. The exchange is closed today due to the move. The opening will include a ribbon cutting and cake. Originally the move was set for Dec. 17, but logistics and construction problems caused the date to be pushed back. The exchange will be opened on Christmas Day from 0900 - 1700.

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Iraq invites U.S. to weapons hunt

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's top government scientist Sunday said his country would welcome "someone from American intelligence" to show U.N. weapons inspectors where President Bush believes Iraq is hiding its weapons programs. Gen. Amir Al-Saadi said U.S. and British claims that

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PM tests mice for Hantavirus

Story & photo by Spc.
Erica Leigh Foley
**28th Public Affairs
Detachment**

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Although many infectious diseases have been recognized as threats to humans, there are still emerging viruses. Some of them are called zoonoses because animals carry them.

With the human population spreading rapidly worldwide, there is an increased chance of encountering animals which carry infectious agents.

Previously an un-

known agent, the Center for Disease Control said Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome caused a 70 percent mortality rate among healthy young adults in a 1993 outbreak in the Southwestern United States. Studies on the rodents known to carry the agent are essential in knowing the risk to humans.

As a result, the 791st Medical Detachment, out of Los Angeles, is conducting a Hantavirus survey at Bagram Air Base. This is not the first time the

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Spc. Juliet M. Kirkpatrick, preventive medicine specialist, measures a mouse while conducting a study for Hantavirus on Bagram Air Base.

HHC CJTF-180 holds first change of command

By Sgt. W. Cullen James
**11th Public Affairs
Detachment**

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The seven-month-old Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Coalition Joint Task Force-180 held its first change of command Saturday.

In a ceremony outside Motel 6, Capt. Michael P. Pregent relinquished command to Capt. Darrel J. Freund.

Pregent took command of the company when it was stood up May 31, said Col. Christopher P. Pritchett, Bagram Air Base commander.

"It was the greatest challenge and most rewarding experience of my military career," said Pregent of the HHC, CJTF-180 command. "It has

prepared me for my next assignment."

Pregent leaves Afghanistan to get married and then take command of a joint-service military intelligence company at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas. "I have the joint experience from this assignment and I'm taking command of a unit that I myself went through as a private."

Freund joins the CJTF-180 team from Fort Eustis, Va. "When I saw the tasking come up, I volunteered for it right away," he said.

Enthusiastic about his new assignment, Freund said he's ready to get to work. "There's a lot of work to do. The most important is improving the quality of life for the soldiers, civil-

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Finance provides relief in Afghanistan

Story & photo by Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — In a Motel 6 office, one soldier wanders to the desk to check his computer as another follows him, asking every question possible along the way. The others shift from side to side in their chairs, talking to one another, hoping to get the right answers.

To add to the already noisy commotion, a small crowd gathers, forming a line that spreads from the door to the stairs, several feet away.

Sgt. Eugenio Ortiz, noncommissioned officer in charge of Reserve pay, looks up from his desk with a look that seems to say, "It's going to be one of those days."

For Detachment E, 126th Finance Battalion from Fort Bragg, N.C., "these"

days, they provide customer service to countless servicemembers.

"It's a huge challenge for us to continue making sure everything gets started on time," said Staff Sgt. Marcia Greer, chief of Military Pay.

Meeting that challenge has not gone unnoticed.

"We received a certificate of appreciation from the 229th Aviation Regiment for our services," Ortiz said.

There's a misconception that finance sections have an easy job, but if one had the opportunity to witness the hard work this section wrings out of its small staff, that misconception would disappear.

For instance, in any given week, soldiers from approximately 31 units come in and out of the tiny office looking for assistance on a wide variety of issues — from LES and LES distribution to pay



Spc. Latasha Cannon, finance clerk, hands casual pay to a customer. Soldiers can withdraw up to \$200 a month.

inquiries and entitlement issues.

"Our staff has done a great job," Greer said.

Soon after the last customer leaves, Ortiz breathes a sigh of relief.

Two seconds later, the hallway becomes congested with new customers.

Yes, it's truly one of those days.

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survey has been conducted in theater. Last spring, surveys were taken in Karshi-Khanabad, Uzbekistan; Kandahar and Kabul. There were no mice found to have the virus in any of the locations surveyed, but there were some antibodies found in mice tested in Uzbekistan.

Following the standard operating procedure, there are 50 sticky traps uniformly distributed throughout the base and the traps are checked every morning.

"We catch the mice using glue traps in order to trap them alive," said Spc. Juliet M. Kirkpatrick, preventative medicine specialist. "We place traps according to mouse habits and look for areas they might prefer traveling through."

Once the mouse is caught, the veterinary technicians gear

up in proper protective wear and begin the identification process.

In order to get accurate measurements, the mouse is put under a general anesthetic, then weighed and measured.

A small amount of blood is taken to conduct the tests.

"Sometimes we have to open up the chest cavity and take the blood straight from the heart because the mouse has died during the procedure and is no longer pumping blood for a proper retro-orbital bleed," she said.

When adequate numbers of mice have been sampled, the dried strips of blood are placed in a bag and shipped to the Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine - Europe.

The survey assesses the risk of Hantavirus at Bagram Air Base. Based on the results, Preventative Medicine can

take the precautionary measures if there is a risk to the servicemembers, Kirkpatrick said.

Hauntavirus caused about 3,000 cases of Korean hemorrhagic fever among United Nations troops during the Korean conflict, according to the Center for Disease Control. The agent was isolated in 1976 and named Hantaan virus after the river by the same name which transfers the disease-endemic area.

Manifestations of Hauntavirus vary from mild renal dysfunction to complete renal shutdown accompanied by capillary leak syndrome and hemorrhagic manifestations.

Preventative Medicine suggests Coalition servicemembers clean areas where mice are known to live with five percent bleached water, keep food away from living area and avoid touching them.

Christmas at Kabul Military Training Center

- ❖ Caroling on the compound — today — 1900 at the chapel
- ❖ Christmas eve candlelight services — Tuesday — 1800 and 2300 in the Conference Room
- ❖ Christmas day party and White Elephant gift exchange — Wednesday — 1000 in the Chapel and Conference Room

Armed Forces Network Radio Stations

- ❖ National Press Radio — **105.7 FM**
- ❖ Power Rock (music & news) — **107.5 FM**
- ❖ AFN Europe (news, talk radio & music) — **103.1 FM**

HIND SIGHT

1933

Pope Pius XI condemns the Nazi sterilization program.

1937

London warns Rome to stop anti-British propaganda in Palestine.

1939

The first Canadian troops arrive in Britain.

1944

General Dwight D. Eisenhower confirms the death sentence of Private Eddie Slovik, the only American shot for desertion since the Civil War.

1947

President Harry S. Truman grants a pardon to 1,523 who had evaded the World War II draft.

1974

The B-1 bomber makes its first successful test flight.

BRIEFS, from Page 1

Iraq is hiding nuclear, chemical or biological weapons programs are “old rehashed reports,” some from as far back as 1990, that Iraq has already disproved. “After 24 days of inspections covering practically all the sites named in those reports and after the submission of our declaration of December 7, the lies and baseless allegations have been uncovered,” he said. “The true part of the half-truths appear in detail in our declaration. We even wouldn’t mind if someone from the American intelligence were to accompany the inspection teams to show them the places in which they allege there is something,” he said.

Lott takes blame for falling into ‘trap’

PASCAGOULA, Miss. — Sen. Trent Lott, in his first public remarks since resigning as Senate Republican leader, said Sunday he had fallen into a “trap” set by his political enemies and had “only myself to blame.” Lott became the focus of a controversy for his remarks praising Strom Thurmond’s 1948 segregationist run for president. Asked whether he was disappointed in a lack of support from the President, Lott said, “I don’t think there’s any use in trying to say I’m disappointed in anybody or anything. An inappropriate remark brought this down on my head.”

Bagram Air Base MWR movies

The Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff present “John Q” tonight at 2000 at the MWR building.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “The Patriot,” showing at the same time.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
Bagram:	Scattered Showers H: 46F L: 28F	Partly cloudy H: 55F L: 25F
Kandahar:	Haze H: 59F L: 45F	Haze H: 63F L: 41F
Kabul:	Rain H: 45F L: 23F	Rain H: 45F L: 25F
Uzbekistan:	Fog/Snow H: 35F L: 27F	Partly Cloudy H: 41F L: 26F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Coalition Joint Task Force - 180.

- ❖ CJTF - 180 Commanding General — Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill
- ❖ CJTF - 180 Command Sergeant Major — Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England
- ❖ Public Affairs Officer — Col. Roger King
- ❖ Public Affairs Sergeant Major — Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler

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One soldier killed, 2 wounded in recent incidents

Coalition Joint Task Force-180

Public Affairs Office

One soldier was killed and two U.S. soldiers were wounded in three separate incidents in Afghanistan.

A U.S. soldier died from gunshot wounds suffered while on patrol in eastern Afghanistan early Saturday morning after his unit came under fire from enemy forces. The firefight started when enemy forces engaged U.S. forces at approximately 0400.

The Defense Department identified the soldier as Sgt. Steven Checo, 22, of New York City. He was a member of the 504th Infantry, based at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Checo was initially medevaced to a forward operating base in eastern Afghanistan and died during surgery.

It was the first U.S. death from hostile fire since May 19.

At approximately 1650 Friday, a special operations soldier was injured when a rocket impacted inside the coalition forces compound at Asadabad. The injured soldier was medevaced to Bagram Air Base. The injuries were not life threatening and he is currently in stable condition. Two other rockets fell outside of the compound, causing no damage or injuries.

The third incident occurred at approximately 1450 Friday. A U.S. special forces soldier participating in weapons training with Afghan military forces in the vicinity of Spin Boldak (about 60 miles southeast of Kandahar) was injured when he attempted to correct a misfire on a rocket propelled grenade launcher. The soldier was initially medevaced to Kandahar air field for treatment and then further transferred to Bagram Air Base where he underwent surgery at the U.S. Army hospital. He is currently in stable condition.

HHC, from Page 1

ians and all members of Task Force-180.”

HHC, CJTF-180 was established at Bagram, Afghanistan May 31.

Prior to that date, base operations at Bagram Air Base were controlled by the 530th Supply and Services Battalion in support of Combined Task Force Mountain.

As Operation Enduring Freedom expanded, CTF Mountain was replaced by CJTF-180. The operation of Bagram Air Base was delegated to Task Force Dragon, and HHC, CJTF-

180 was established simultaneously to facilitate the life support and administrative needs of the personnel deployed to Bagram.

Present, as the first HHC commander, established the procedures and practices necessary to provide the support to a contingent which eventually numbered over 1,500 soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and soldiers from numerous coalition nations all assigned to the CJTF-180 headquarters and separate units and detachments stationed at Bagram.

Myers visits Bagram troops

Story & photo by Staff Sgt.

Christina Bhatti

11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan, — The highest US military officer visited Friday to show his support for the troops serving here.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff took a day to visit with servicemembers to show his gratitude for “a job well done.”

“You all have made a huge impact that is known around the world,” he said. “People are awed by what you do.”

Myers started his tour at the Joint Operations Center and then moved to a media question and answer session, where he assured the press that America is ready for any future conflicts and with the help of our allies we will win.

He was then ushered to the 82nd Airborne Division compound where he promoted Heather Wesa, Christopher Campbell and Andrew Aguirre to the rank of sergeant.

These are the kind of troops I look up to. All of the officers know, that without sergeants nothing would get done, he said.



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard B. Myers looks on as Air Force Staff Sgt. Frederick Smith, 682nd Air Support Operations Squadron, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. signs his reenlistment paperwork. Myers reenlisted Smith for four more years.

The last stop of the day was to visit his Air Force brethren. His first order of business was to reenlist Staff Sgt. Frederick Smith, 682nd Air Support Operations Squadron, Shaw Air Force Base, SC. Myers completed his stay by meeting as many servicemembers as he could and telling them personally that he appreciates all they do.



Photo by Sgt. W. Cullen James

Capt. Darrel J. Freund takes the HHC guidon from Col. Christopher P. Pritchett, Bagram Air Base commander.

COALITION SPORTS ZONE



Week 16 NFL scores

Carolina 24, Chicago 14
 Atlanta 36, Detroit 15
 Green Bay 10, Buffalo 0
 Kansas City 24, San Diego 22
 Cleveland 14, Baltimore 13
 New York Jets 30, New England 17
 Minnesota 20, Miami 17
 Philadelphia 27, Dallas 3
 Washington 26, Houston 10
 Tennessee 28, Jacksonville 10
 Cincinnati 20, New Orleans 13
 New York Giants 44, Indianapolis 27
 Seattle 30, St. Louis 10
 Oakland 28, Denver
 San Francisco 17, Arizona 14
Monday night's Game
 Pittsburgh vs. Tampa Bay

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Raiders clinch division

OAKLAND, Calif. — Rich Gannon couldn't have been happier Bill Romanowski was going after the other quarterback this time.

Another record-setting day by Gannon, along with an inspiring effort by Romanowski and the rest of the Raiders' defense propelled Oakland to its third straight division title on Sunday, 28-16 over the Denver Broncos.

"We killed them, we swept them and it ain't over yet. It's just begun," said Romanowski, who made a game-changing hit on Brian Griese in the ferocious linebacker's second game against his old team.

Gannon set the NFL single-season record for completions and passed for 201 yards as the Raiders surged into the playoffs. When Gannon saw Griese go down with an injured knee, he couldn't help but think about the hit Romanowski put on him last season.

Last December in Denver, Romanowski clob-

bered Gannon with a vicious sack that caused a fumble. It set the tone for the Broncos' victory, which helped prevent Oakland from earning a first-round playoff bye.

Browns eliminate Ravens

BALTIMORE — The Cleveland Browns' playoff hopes rested on their ability to move 92 yards in just over two minutes, without a timeout.

Some teams might have panicked. For the Browns, it was just another Sunday.

Tim Couch capped a frantic drive with a 1-yard touchdown pass to Mark Campbell with 29 seconds left, and Phil Dawson's conversion gave Cleveland an improbable 14-13 victory over the Baltimore Ravens.

"This team has been in those situations all year long, and we've come out on top quite a

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2002 National Football League standings

American Football Conference

East

(3) Miami	9-6	.600
(5) N. England	8-6	.571
N.Y. Jets	7-7	.500
Buffalo	7-8	.467

North

Pittsburgh	8-5-1	.607
Cleveland	8-7	.533
Baltimore	7-8	.467
Cincinnati	2-13	.133

South

(2) Tennessee	10-5	.667
(4) Indianapolis	9-6	.600
Jacksonville	6-9	.400
Houston	4-11	.267

West

(1) Oakland	10-5	.667
(6) San Diego	8-7	.533
Denver	8-7	.533
Kansas City	8-7	.533



National Football Conference

East

(1) Philadelphia	12-3	.800
N.Y. Giants	9-6	.600
Washington	6-9	.400
Dallas	5-10	.333

North

(2) Green Bay	12-3	.800
Minnesota	5-19	.333
Chicago	4-11	.267
Detroit	3-12	.200

South

(3) Tampa Bay	11-3	.786
(5) Atlanta	9-5-1	.633
(6) N. Orleans	9-6	.600
Carolina	6-9	.400

West

(4) San Francisco	10-5	.667
St. Louis	6-9	.400
Seattle	6-9	.400
Arizona	5-10	.333

SPORTS, from Page 5

Playoff picture remains cloudy

It's the most muddled playoff picture in NFL history.

Entering the final week, the playoff possibilities in the AFC are almost as wide open as they were in Week 1, when 32 teams started 0-0.

Even though Oakland and Tennessee won their way in Sunday, things stayed just as confusing. So much so that the NFL office worked overtime into the night sorting through the more arcane tiebreaking formulas, such as strength of schedule and strength of victories.

"It's going to come down to the final straws and we don't need to get sweaty palms," New York Giants coach Jim Fassel said.

Oakland and Tennessee became the first two AFC teams to clinch playoff berths entering the final week of the regular season. Jacksonville and Buffalo lost and were eliminated.

But going into Sunday night's New York Jets-New England Patriots game, only four of the 16 teams in the AFC were mathematically out of the playoff race.

A Patriots victory would eliminate the Jets and Baltimore, but still leave 10 teams alive for six spots going into the final weekend of the regular season.

The NFC situation was more simplified, although the final two wild-card berths will go down to the final week.

Philadelphia (12-3), Green Bay (12-3), Tampa Bay (11-3) and San Francisco (10-5) have won the four divisions with the Eagles, Buccaneers and Packers — in that order — in line for a first-round bye and home-field advantage.

few times," Couch said. "As long as you have the chance to score and get back in the game, you've got to always believe."

Saints now need help after falling to Bengals

CINCINNATI—Every so often, another New Orleans Saint muttered a cuss word under his breath, breaking the silence but not the melancholy in the locker room.

They couldn't fathom how they had just out-bungled the NFL's biggest bunglers, possibly costing them a playoff spot.

The Saints played more like the league's worst team Sunday, losing 20-13 to the Cincinnati Bengals. Nick Luchey scored two late touchdowns that will torment New Orleans for a week — and

maybe much longer.

"It's a big, strong gut-check about us now," said Aaron Brooks, who misfired on his last 11 passes during a second-half meltdown.

Late field goal lifts Chiefs

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A handful of former backups and a kickoff specialist helped the Kansas City Chiefs pull out a last-minute win.

Four key players in the Chiefs' 24-22 victory over the San Diego Chargers on Sunday were backups two weeks ago. Two made their first starts Sunday.

And the final hero hadn't kicked a field goal in more than two years.

Michael Husted, a kickoff specialist who became Kansas City's

placekicker this week when Morten Andersen went out with a nagging knee injury, kicked a 38-yard field goal with 1:08 left to give Kansas City (8-7) the win.

Sanders says he's in discussions with Raiders

OAKLAND, Calif. — Deion Sanders is discussing coming out of retirement to join the Oakland Raiders for the playoffs.

"I may come back to a playoff team," he said Sunday on CBS Sports' "NFL Today," where he's a studio host. "I've made contact, I have spoken to my attorney, we have spoken to the Oakland Raiders."

The Raiders confirmed Sunday that the club has contacted Sanders about possibly coming out of retirement.

Laugh Support

"He just wants to borrow it for the night, sir."



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By Kevin Kilgore